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*Attorneys for Jane Doe 1, individually*

*and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

JANE DOE 1, individually and on  
behalf of all other persons similarly  
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BANC, JACK & JOE, LLC dba  
TITILATIONS GO-GO-BAR, BANC  
PERO, JOSPEH CARERI, JACK  
PERO, ABC COMPANIES 1-10 and  
JOHN DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.:

**COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Jane Doe 1 (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, by and through her attorneys Brach Eichler L.L.C, by way of Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial against Defendants, says:

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is a class and collective action brought by Plaintiff, a dancer, against Defendants Banc, Jack & Joe, LLC doing business as Titilations Go-Go-Bar (“Titilations”), Banc Pero, Joseph Careri, and Jack Pero (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Defendants”) who own and operate

Titilations. The Class which the Plaintiff seeks to represent is composed of female employees who, during the relevant time period, worked as dancers for Defendants. During this period the Defendants (1) intentionally misclassified Plaintiff and all other members of the putative Class as independent contractors and/or as quasi lessees; (2) willfully refused to pay a minimum wage; (3) unlawfully required dancers to split their gratuities with Defendants and their employees; (4) unlawfully deducted employee wages through rents, fines, and penalties; and (5) upon information and belief continue to engage in all of these improper actions toward the Class.

2. This is a collective action pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), 29 U.S.C. §216(b), on behalf of Plaintiff and all other persons who were employed by Defendants anywhere in the State of New Jersey as dancers or entertainers, or any other equivalent position, and who were not paid the minimum wage and were misclassified as independent contractors under the FLSA during the three year period preceding this Complaint (the “Class”).

3. This is also a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of Plaintiff and all other persons who were employed by Defendants anywhere in the State of New Jersey as dancers or entertainers, or any other equivalent position, and who were not paid the minimum wage and were misclassified as independent contractors in violation of the New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a through 34:11:56a30 (the “NJWHL”), during the two year period preceding this Complaint (the “Class”).

4. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to remedies including, but not limited to, injunctive relief and damages as authorized under state and federal laws and regulations. Plaintiff brings this class action seeking damages, back pay, restitution, liquidated damages, injunctive and declaratory relief, civil penalties, prejudgment interest, reasonable

attorneys' fees and costs, and any and all other relief that the Court deems just, reasonable and equitable in the circumstances.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's principle claims arise under federal law pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

6. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims arising under New Jersey State law pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1367.

7. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims herein occurred in the District of New Jersey. In addition, Defendants regularly transact business in this District, have a place of business in this District, and this lawsuit arises out of Defendants' activities in this District such that they are subject to personal jurisdiction in the District of New Jersey.

### **PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff Jane Doe 1("Plaintiff") is a citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey and worked for Defendants from the Summer 2016 until early 2017. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was an employee as defined in 29 U.S.C. §201 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a et seq.

9. Plaintiff has executed her consent to join form. Like other Class members, Plaintiff was: (1) misclassified in her employment status and was not paid the wages to which she was entitled to as an employee; and was (2) required to split tip income with Defendants and their non-tipped employees.

10. Plaintiff files this action under a fictitious name and seek to proceed anonymously because: (a) she fears retaliation by Defendants; (b) she wishes to preserve her right to privacy; (c) there is a significant social stigma attached to her occupation as a dancer; (d) there is an inherent amount of

risk associated with Plaintiff's profession and she fears that disclosure of her legal name and address may subject her to risk of injury by current and former patrons; and (e) in addition to the fear of retaliation by Defendants, she would be hesitant to maintain this action enforcing fundamental employment rights if her names were to be forever associated with Defendants. There is no prejudice to Defendants if Plaintiff files this action under a fictitious name and proceeds anonymously. In the ordinary course of business, Defendants themselves identify the dancers they employ through stage names. The identities of Plaintiff will be disclosed to Defendants privately in order to allow them to assess and defend their claims.

11. Defendant Banc, Jack & Joe, LLC *dba* Titalations Go-Go-Bar ("Titalations"), is a New Jersey limited liability company with a place of business at 12 Willow St, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003.

12. Defendant Banc Pero ("B. Pero"), upon information and belief, is a resident of the State of New Jersey and has a place of business at 12 Willow St, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003. Upon information and belief, B. Pero resides at 35 County Road, Demarest, New Jersey 07627. B. Pero is an owner, officer, director, member or manager of Titalations and controlled the terms and conditions of Plaintiff's employment. The Titalations Facebook page lists B. Pero as a General Manager of Titalations.

13. Defendant Jack Pero ("J. Pero"), upon information and belief, is a resident of the State of New Jersey and has a place of business at 12 Willow St, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003. Upon information and belief, J. Pero resides at 21 Demott Avenue, Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621. J. Pero is an owner, officer, director, member or manager of Titalations and controlled the terms and conditions of Plaintiff's employment. The Titalations Facebook page lists J. Pero as a General Manager.

14. Defendant Joseph Careri ("Careri"), upon information and is a resident of the State of New Jersey and has a place of business at 12 Willow St, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003. Careri is an

owner, officer, director, member or manager of Titilations and controlled the terms and conditions of Plaintiff's employment.

15. Defendants ABC Companies 1-10 are entities that discovery and investigation may reveal may be responsible in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, for the claims and damages alleged herein.

16. Defendants John Does 1-10 are persons who discovery and investigation may reveal may be responsible in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, for the claims and damages alleged herein.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

17. Defendants are joint employers of Plaintiff and all class members and as such are jointly and severally liable for any violations of the wage and hour laws set forth below. Plaintiff seeks to certify a class of all dancers and entertainers who worked at Titilations in Bloomfield, New Jersey which is directly or indirectly, owned, operated, controlled and/or managed by Defendants.

18. The Defendants intentionally agreed and conspired among themselves, as well as with any third-parties which own part of Titilations to unlawfully: (1) misclassify dancers as independent contractors, as opposed to properly classifying them as employees; (2) fail to pay Class members wages in violation of the FLSA and the NJWHL; (3) require that dancers split their table and private dance tips with Defendants; (4) require that dancers further split their table and private dance tips with Defendants' DJ's and other employees who do not usually receive tips, by paying "tip-outs;" (5) demand improper and unlawful payments from Plaintiff and class members; (6) adopt and implement employment policies which violate the FLSA and/or other wage and hour laws; (7) require dancers to pay fees and fines before allowing them to work; and (8) threaten retaliation against any dancer attempting to assert her statutory rights to be recognized as an employee. The unlawful agreements and conspiracies between Defendants and third-parties in the enterprise were entered into as part of a strategy to maximize revenues and profits, avoid taxes and to violate class members' statutory rights.

19. Defendants knew or should have known that their business model and their practices are unlawful since all money given to dancers by patrons is defined to be a gratuity and the sole property of the dancer.

20. Defendants decision to keep Plaintiff and the other dancers “off the books” was a deliberate attempt to violate State and Federal wage and hour laws and a blatant tax avoidance strategy. Despite knowing their behavior was unlawful, Defendants continue to willfully engage in the acts described below misclassifying dancers and splitting tip income in violation of their legal duties. Accordingly, their violations of the FLSA and NJWHL were willful.

21. The FLSA and NJWHL applied to Plaintiff and the Class at all times in which they worked at Titilations.

22. At all relevant times, Defendants owned and operated a business engaged in interstate commerce and which utilized goods which moved in interstate commerce as defined in 29 U.S.C. §203(r) and §203(s).

23. Defendants constitute an “enterprise” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §203(r)(1), because they perform related activities through common control for a common business purpose.

24. At relevant times, Plaintiff and the Class were employed by Defendants, enterprises engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §206(a) and §207(a).

25. Plaintiff herself was employed from the summer of 2016 until early 2017 and typically worked three (3) days a week and seven (7) hours per day, for a total of twenty-one (21) hours per week.

26. At relevant times, Plaintiff and each member of the Class were current or former employees of Defendants under the FLSA and applicable state wage and hour laws.

27. No exceptions to the application of the FLSA or NJWHL apply to Plaintiff and the Class.

28. Plaintiff and the Class have been intentionally misclassified by Defendants. Plaintiff and the Class were misclassified as independent contractors when they are employees. Defendants also classified its dancers as quasi lessees and charged them rent in the form of compulsory tip sharing in order to be permitted to perform at Tilitations.

29. Plaintiff and the Class have never been paid any minimum wage by Defendants. Plaintiff, like other similarly situated individuals, was never issued a paycheck during her employment. Plaintiff was never issued a W-2 or a 1099.

30. Defendants never paid Plaintiff anything for the services she provided to the Defendants. Plaintiff's sole source of payment was in the form of tips from Tilitations patrons. Notwithstanding this, at the end of every shift, Plaintiff was forced to "tip out" or pay some of her earnings to Tilitations and DJ's.

31. Upon information and belief, during the relevant time period over 100 different women have worked as dancers at Tilitations without being paid any minimum wages while also being denied the rights and benefits of being an employee.

32. The money that Class members received from customers in the performance of dances or other entertainment services were tips, not wages or service fees. These tips were given by patrons directly to workers in the Class and therefore, the tips belong to the Class members, not Defendants.

33. The tips that workers in the Class are given by patrons are not taken into Defendants' gross receipts, with a portion then paid out to the workers. Defendants do not issue W-2 forms, 1099 forms or any other documents to Class members indicating any amounts being paid from their gross receipts to Class members as wages.

34. Plaintiff and members of the Class are tipped employees as they are engaged in occupations in which they customarily and regularly receive more than \$30 a month in tips. No tip credits offsetting any minimum wages due are permitted. Therefore, as Defendants' employees, Class members are entitled to: (i) receive the full minimum wages due, without any tip credit, reduction or other offset, and (ii) to retain the full amount of any tips and monies given to them by customers when they perform dances or other services.

35. Plaintiff and the other Class members do not exert control over any meaningful part of Titilations and do not stand as a separate economic entity from Defendants. Defendants exercise control over all aspects of the working relationship with Plaintiff and the other Class members at Titilations.

36. Defendants obtain the customers who desire to watch dance entertainment and provide the workers who provide dance services on behalf of Defendants. Defendants retain pervasive control over the operation as a whole, and particular the manner in which the Class members' participate in the operation.

37. Defendants employ guidelines and rules dictating the way in which Class members must conduct themselves while working including setting the hours of operation; method of sign in and sign out; confirming bookings; length and time of shifts; the show times during which a dancer may perform; rotation for dancers performing onstage; the format of dancers' performances, including approval of



wardrobe; and the cost of private dances each Class Member performs. Defendants also dictate the hours worked by Plaintiff and the Class. Dancers do not even control the songs to which they dance.

38. Defendants control what Plaintiff and the Class wear while working. Defendants require Plaintiff and the Class to purchase certain outfits with certain colors or they are not allowed to work.

39. Defendants control when Plaintiff and the Class dance and for how long, when Plaintiff and the Class give private dances, the price of private dances, when Plaintiff and the Class take break, how Plaintiff and the Class are required to divide up their tips. Defendants required every Class member to pay \$30 per shift to the club in order to work the shift and \$15 to the DJ's for a total of \$45 per shift in tips that Plaintiff and the Class were required to share.

40. Defendants imposed work rules and meted out punishment including termination for any violation of the Defendants' rules and policies.

41. The totality of circumstances surrounding the employment relationship between Defendants and the Class members establishes that Plaintiff and the class were/are employees, not independent contractors or lessees. Plaintiff and the class are not free from control or direction over the performance of their work, and such work is not outside the usual course of business for which it is performed.

### **CLASS AND COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

#### **A. Class Action Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23**

42. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein at length.

43. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 23, Plaintiff seeks to prosecute the claims herein as a class action on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, which includes all persons who were or are

employed, within the meaning of the NJWHL, by Defendants anywhere in the State of New Jersey as dancers, or any other equivalent position, and who were not paid the minimum wage, were misclassified in violation NJWHL and were required to share tips with Defendants and Defendants' nontipped employees at any time since three years prior to the date of this Complaint to the entry of judgment in this case.

44. All members of the class performed the same basic duties and assignments as Plaintiff described above. Plaintiff and all members of the class were similarly subject to Defendants' common policies and practices of improperly classifying dancers, failing to pay them the minimum wage and requiring them to share tips with Defendants and other nontipped employees.

45. Plaintiff is a member of the class she seeks to represent, and her claims are typical of the claims of the class. The relief Plaintiff seeks for the unlawful policies and practices complained of herein are also typical of the relief which is sought on behalf of the class.

46. The working relationships between Defendants and every putative Class member are exactly the same and differ only in name, exact job duties, and rate of pay. The key legal issue in the class action—whether Defendants' classification policy and practice violates the NJWHL— is a common legal issue that is equally applicable to the Class and to each Class member.

47. While the precise number of class members is presently unknown to Plaintiff, the number of class members includes all individuals that were employed or currently are employed by Defendants for the three (3) years preceding the filing of this complaint. Upon information and belief, the number of individuals that were employed or currently are employed by the Defendants exceeds 100 individuals. Therefore, the number of class members is so numerous that joinder of all class members is impracticable.

48. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the proposed class, making final injunctive and declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole.

49. Certification of the proposed class is the most efficient and economical means of resolving the questions of law and fact which are common to the claims of Plaintiff and the class. Without class certification, the same evidence and issues would be subject to re-litigation in a multitude of individual lawsuits with a risk of inconsistent adjudications and conflicting obligations. Certification of the proposed class is the most efficient and judicious means of presenting the evidence and argument necessary to resolve such questions for Plaintiff, the members of the class, and Defendants.

50. The number of class members is sufficient to satisfy the numerosity requirement of Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 23(a)(1).

51. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of Plaintiff's claims and the claims of the members of the class. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

52. Plaintiff's interests are co-extensive with those of the members of the proposed class. Plaintiff is willing and able to represent the class fairly and vigorously pursue their similar individual claims in this action. Plaintiff has retained counsel and a law firm that is experienced and competent in the fields of employment law, wage and hour law, and class action litigation. Plaintiff has no interest that is contrary to or in conflict with the members of the proposed class.

53. The cost of proving Defendants' violations of the NJWHL makes it impracticable for Plaintiff and the members of the class to pursue their claims individually. Maintenance of a class action promotes judicial economy by consolidating a large class of litigants with identical claims. The claims of the class interrelate such that the interests of the members will be fairly and adequately protected in

their absence. Additionally, the questions of law and fact common to the class arise from the same course of events and each class member makes similar legal arguments to prove Defendants' liability.

54. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all class members, and predominate over any questions that solely affect individual class members. These common questions of law and fact include:

- a. Whether Defendants employed Plaintiffs and members of the class within the meaning of the NJWHL;
- b. Whether Defendants improperly classified Plaintiff and members of the class as independent contractors under the NJWHL;
- c. Whether the money given to dancers by patrons when they perform dances are gratuities;
- d. Whether Defendants engaged in a systematic and widespread practice of failing to pay minimum wage to Plaintiff and the class;
- e. Whether Defendants engaged in a systematic and widespread practice of failing to pay hourly employees for all hours worked;
- f. Whether Defendants failed to provide form W-2 or form 1099 statements to its employees;
- g. Whether Defendants required Plaintiff and the Class to share tips with Defendants and nontipped employees;
- h. Whether Defendants' failure to pay minimum wage to hourly employees and Defendants' misclassification of Plaintiff and the Class violates the New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a et seq.;
- i. Whether Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation to hourly employees violates the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.;
- j. Whether Defendants' failure to pay minimum wage to hourly employees and Defendants' misclassification of Plaintiff and the Class violates the United States Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division Regulations, 29 C.F.R. § 778.100 et seq.;
- k. Whether Defendants failed to keep required employment records;
- l. Whether Defendants agreed and conspired to deny class member their rights under the wage and hour laws;
- m. Whether Defendants should be enjoined from such violations of the NJWHL in the future.

55. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class members. Plaintiffs have no interests antagonistic to the interests of the other class members and have retained counsel experienced in handling class action litigations.

**B. Collective Action Under 29 U.S.C. §216(b)**

56. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein at length.

57. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b), Plaintiff seeks to prosecute the claims herein as a collective action on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, which includes all other persons who were or are employed by Defendants anywhere in the State of New Jersey as dancers, or any other equivalent position who were not paid the minimum wage, were misclassified in violation of the FLSA and unlawfully forced to share tips at any time since three years prior to the date of this Complaint to the entry of judgment in this case.

58. The putative party plaintiffs all performed the same basic duties and assignments as Plaintiff described above. They were all subject to Defendants' common policies and practices of improperly classifying dancers, or any other equivalent position, as independent contractors, and/or improperly failing to pay them the minimum wage to which they are entitled and for requiring Plaintiff and the Class to share tips with Defendants and Defendants' nontipped employees. Plaintiff's claims herein are similar to those of the putative party plaintiffs.

59. The key legal issue in the collective action—whether Defendants' classification policy and practice violates the FLSA—does not vary from Class member to Class member.

60. Defendants violated the FLSA by failing to pay dancers the minimum wage to which they are entitled, for misclassifying them, and for requiring them to share tips with Defendants and Defendants' nontipped employees.

61. Defendants' violations of the FLSA were willful, repeated, knowing, continuing and intentional, and economically damaged Plaintiff and the putative party plaintiffs.

62. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§207(a)(1) and 216(b), Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and the putative party plaintiffs for the full amount of unpaid overtime compensation, plus an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, plus the attorneys' fees and costs of Plaintiff and the putative party plaintiffs.

63. Plaintiff is currently unaware of the identities of all putative party plaintiffs. Accordingly, Defendants must be required to provide Plaintiff with a list of all persons employed by Defendants as dancers anywhere in the State of New Jersey during the three year period prior to the filing date of this Complaint, stating their last known addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, so that Plaintiff can provide such putative party plaintiffs notice of the pendency of this action and an opportunity to make an informed decision about whether to participate in it.

**COUNT ONE**  
**Fair Labor Standards Act**

64. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein at length.

65. At all relevant times, each Defendants have been and continue to be employers engaged in interstate and international commerce and/or the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of and at revenue levels sufficient for coverage under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203.

66. Upon information and belief, Defendants have an annual dollar volume of sales or business well in excess of \$500,000.

67. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and all putative party plaintiffs were and/or are employees of Defendants within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203.

68. Plaintiff consents to sue in this action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216.

69. This claim arises out of Defendants' willful violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 201, et seq., for failure to pay a minimum wage to Plaintiff and members of the FLSA Collective to which they were entitled.

70. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 206, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective were entitled to be compensated at the minimum wage in effect at various times over the past three years. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and members of the FLSA Collective the minimum wages set forth in 29 U.S.C. §206, or any wages whatsoever.

71. The amounts paid to Class members and the FLSA Collective, by patrons in relation to private dances or other services performed were tips, not wages. Those tips were not the property of Defendants. The entire amount collected from patrons in relation to table dances performed by dancers or for other services provided was not made part of any Defendants' gross receipts at any point.

72. Further, no tip credit applies to reduce or offset any minimum wages due. The FLSA only permits an employer to allocate an employee's tips to satisfy a portion of the statutory minimum wage requirement provided that the following conditions are satisfied: (1) the employer must inform the tipped employees of the provisions of § 3(m) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(m); and (2) tipped employees must retain all the tips received except those tips included in a tipping pool among employees who customarily receive tips. 29 U.S.C. § 203(m). Neither of these conditions was satisfied.

73. Defendants' requirement that Class/Collective members split their tips and, pay Defendants a portion of all dance tips and to pay a "tip-out" to other employees who do not customarily receive tips, such as bouncers, house moms and disc jockeys was not part of a legally permissible or valid tip pooling or tip sharing arrangement.

74. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and the Class/Collective are entitled to the full statutory minimum wages set forth in 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 207 for all periods in which Plaintiff worked at Titilations, along with all applicable penalties, liquidated damages, and other relief

75. Defendants' conduct in misclassifying Class members was intentional and willful and done to avoid paying minimum wages and the other benefits that Plaintiff and the Class were legally entitled to receive.

76. 12 U.S.C. §211(c) provides in pertinent part:

(c) Records

Every employer subject to any provision of this chapter or of any order issued under this chapter shall make, keep, and preserve such records of the persons employed by him and of the wages, hours, and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by him, and shall preserve such records for such periods of time, and shall make such reports therefrom to the Administrator as he shall prescribe by regulation or order as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations or orders thereunder.

77. 29 C.F.R. § 516.2 and 29 C.F.R. § 825.500 further require that every employer shall maintain and preserve payroll or other records containing, without limitation, the total hours worked by each employee each workday and total hours worked by each employee each workweek.

78. Upon information and belief, Defendants do not keep the aforementioned records, and thus violated the record keeping provisions of the FLSA causing Plaintiff and the Class damages.

79. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff seeks unpaid minimum wages at the required legal rate for all working hours during the relevant time period, back pay, restitution, damages, reimbursement of



any base rent and tip-splits, liquidated damages, prejudgment interest calculated at the highest legal rate, attorneys' fees and costs, and all other costs, penalties and other relief allowed by law

**COUNT TWO**  
**New Jersey Wage and Hour Law**

80. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein at length.

81. At relevant times, in addition to the FLSA, Plaintiff and all members of the Class were employees of the Defendants within the meaning of applicable state wage and hour laws mandating the payment of minimum wages including the NJWHL.

82. Defendants are employers within the meaning of NJWHL and supporting New Jersey State Department of Labor Regulations, and employed Plaintiff and the Class.

83. Defendants misclassified Plaintiff and the Class and failed to pay them the minimum wages to which they are entitled under the NJWHL.

84. Any amount paid directly by a patron to a Class member is a gratuity or tip belonging solely and entirely to her. All amounts paid to Class members by customers in relation to dances, goods sold and other work performed while working at Titilations were tips and gratuities, not wages or service fees; belong solely to the Class member; and cannot be used to offset Defendants' obligation to pay them minimum wages.

85. Defendants' conduct requiring Class members to split their tips and pay "rent" constituted unlawful tip splitting, which injured class members

86. Defendants have willfully violated the NJWHL by knowingly and intentionally failing to pay the plaintiff and the tipped staff the statutory minimum hourly wage.

87. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class members have suffered damages, including attorneys' fees and costs of suit.

**COUNT THREE**  
**Unjust Enrichment**

88. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein at length.

89. Plaintiffs and the class members conferred a substantial benefit upon Defendants by working without pay and being required to share their tips with Defendants and their nontipped employees. Defendants, however, failed to compensate Plaintiffs and the class members this work.

90. The receipt and retention of this benefit by Defendants constitutes unjust enrichment.

91. As a result, Plaintiffs and the class members have suffered damages, including attorneys' fees and costs of suit.

**COUNT FOUR**  
**Common Law Fraud**

92. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein at length.

93. Defendants misrepresented to Plaintiff and the Class that they were independent contractors and stated they were required to split their tips with Defendants and Defendants' nontipped employees, such as DJ's.

94. Defendants' misrepresentations were made with the intent that Plaintiffs and the class members rely upon them.

95. Plaintiffs and the class members reasonably relied upon Defendants' misrepresentations to their detriment.

96. As a result, Plaintiffs and the class members have suffered damages, including attorneys' fees and costs of suit.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, respectfully requests that the Court grant the following relief:

- a. That all Defendants be found jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff and the Class/Collective;
- b. Declare this action to be maintainable as a collective action pursuant to the FLSA and direct Defendants to provide Plaintiff with a list of all persons who worked as dancers during the three years preceding this Complaint, including the last known address, telephone number and email address of each such person, so that Plaintiff can give such persons notice of this action and an opportunity to make an informed decision about whether to participate in it;
- c. Declare this action to be maintainable as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and designate Plaintiff as class representative and her counsel of record as class counsel;
- d. Declaratory judgment that the practices complained of in this Complaint are unlawful pursuant to the FLSA and the NJWHL;
- e. Award unpaid minimum wages compensation due under the FLSA and the NJWHL;
- f. Award all back pay, unpaid wages, and a refund of all tips, "rent", tipouts, fines and other amounts paid by Plaintiff and members of the Class to Defendants and their employees;
- g. Award permanent injunctive relief to Plaintiffs and the class members, restraining and enjoining Defendants from requiring the sharing of tips;
- h. Award permanent injunctive relief to Plaintiffs and the class members, compelling Defendants to properly classify them as employees and compensate them as hourly employees in accordance with state and federal law;
- i. Award liquidated damages under the FLSA and the NJWHL;
- j. Award restitution of all monies due Plaintiff and the Class/Collective and disgorged profits from the unlawful business practices of Defendants;
- k. Award attorneys' fees and costs under the FLSA and the NJWHL;
- l. Pre- and post-judgment interest; and

- m. Any other relief that this Court deems just and equitable.

**DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all other persons similarly situated, hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues and claims so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

BRACH EICHLER, L.L.C.

/s/ Lucas A. Markowitz, Esq.

Charles X. Gormally, Esq.

Lucas A. Markowitz, Esq.

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff Jane Doe 1, individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated*

Dated: May 31, 2017

**LOCAL RULE 11.2 CERTIFICATION**

I, Charles X. Gormally, Esq. the undersigned attorney of record for Plaintiff, do hereby certify to my own knowledge and based upon information available to me at my office, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action now pending in any court or in any arbitration or administrative proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

BRACH EICHLER, L.L.C.

/s/ Lucas A. Markowitz, Esq.

Charles X. Gormally, Esq.

Lucas A. Markowitz, Esq.

**BRACH EICHLER L.L.C.**

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff Jane Doe 1, individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated*

Dated: May 31, 2017

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

JANE DOE 1, individually and on  
behalf of all other persons similarly  
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BANC, JACK & JOE, LLC dba  
TITILATIONS GO-GO-BAR, BANC  
PERO, JOSPEH CARERI, JACK  
PERO, ABC COMPANIES 1-10 and  
JOHN DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.:

**CONSENT TO JOIN COLLECTIVE ACTION  
AND BE REPRESENTED BY PLAINTIFF  
AND HER COUNSEL**

- I, \_\_\_\_\_, consent to join the above-styled lawsuit seeking damages for unpaid wages under the Fair Labor Standards Act;
- I authorize the named Plaintiff to file and prosecute the above-referenced matter in my name, and on my behalf, and designate the named Plaintiff to make decisions on my behalf concerning the litigation, including the negotiation for a resolution of my claims;
- I agree to be represented by Brach Eichler LLC, counsel for the named Plaintiff;
- In the event this action is conditionally certified and then decertified, I authorize Plaintiff's counsel to reuse this Consent Form to re-file my claims in a separate or related action against the Defendants.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Jane Doe 1

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Passaic  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, Email and Telephone Number)

Lucas A. Markowitz, Esq., Brach Eichler, LLC, 101 Eisenhower Parkway,  
Roseland, New Jersey 07068. (P) 973-364-8302

**DEFENDANTS**

Banc, Jack & Joe, LLC dba Titilations Go-Go-Bar, Banc Pero, Joseph  
Careri, Jack Pero

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Essex  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☒ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding    ☐ 2 Removed from State Court    ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court    ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened    ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)    ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer    ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.

Brief description of cause:  
Wage and Hour Violations

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.    DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes    ☐ No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

05/31/2017

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Lucas A. Markowitz, Esq.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT #    AMOUNT    APPLYING IFP    JUDGE    MAG. JUDGE

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
- United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.